I've been a fan of Haruhiko Mikimoto's art for a quite while- actually the reason why I got to be part of M.S was his Macross 7 Trash.

Baby Birth might not be very impressive storywise-but I definately find Mikimoto's art itself justifying the buying of these books. Thus, enjoy and go buy the books, or not. Not that I care if Tokypoop goes under...

-Hellmonkey

BABY BIRTH

Volume 1

by
Sukehiro Tomita
&
Haruhiko Mikimoto

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ACT.0 Prologue

ARGGHHRR
I'M READY DO IT.
H-HIZURU! ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO YOU?!
NO..
I'M NOT GOING TO SEE YOU AGAIN, AM I? GOOD-BYE, TAKUYA.

BABYBIRTH
1
Writer: Sukehiro Tomita
Artist: Haruhiko Mikimoto
Monster Design: Yasuhiro Morimoto
HIZURU!

THANK YOU...

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ACT. 1 A Chance Meeting

Don't forget it's all the manju-yaki we can eat if you win! We better not go hungry because of you! Ichigo♡
CRAP!
GEEZ, WHO'S CALLING ME NOW?
THANKS FOR SLOWING ME DOWN, GIRL!
ONLY ONE MORE SET OF STAIRS AND I'M HOME
...FREE!

AND AS THE "MONJA-YAKI" MILE COMES TO ITS CLIMACTIC CLOSE...
THE QUESTION REMAINS... WHO'S GOING TO WIN?
WILL IT BE THE PUCK-HEADS OF THE HOCKEY TEAM THAT TAKE THE PROVERBIAL CAKE?! OR WILL IT BE THE LOVELY LADIES OF THE FIGURE SKATING TEAM WHICH, AS YOU RECALL, LOST LAST MONTH'S BATTLE BY A HAIR?!
HIZURU-CHAN
OR WILL THERE BE WILD-CARD WIN BY THE SOCCER, TRACK OR ANOTHER TEAM ALTOGETHER?!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE THE HOCKEY TEAM!
MONJA-YA!
IT'S HIZURU OBOROZUKI!
NO, WAIT, HERE COMES THE FIGURE SKATING TEAM!

THERE IT IS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
HIZURU OBOROZUKI IS BUSTING OUT HER INFAMOUS LAST-LEG SIGNATURE MOVES! BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET. THIS IS ANYBODY'S WIN!

OH, AND IT'S ANOTHER FAILURE FOR OBOROZUKI!
OH CRAP!
I'M OUT OF THE ZONE!
AND THERE'S THE CHECKERED FLAG!
IN CONTRAST TO A TRADITIONAL "RAIL SLIDE"—
OBOROZUKI USES THE WHEELS OF HER SKATE—INSTEAD OF THE SIDE OF HER SKATE—AND HER ABSOLUTE SENSE OF BALANCE, TO ROCKET DOWN THE RAILING, BUT—
A TOTAL CINCH!
LITTLE FOOL...
!!

WHAT IF YOU GOT HURT DURING ONE OF THESE THINGS?
THOSE FIGURE SKATERS ALMOST HAD IT THIS TIME.
BUT THAT'S ANOTHER BIG FAT ALMOST.
YEAH... UNLUCKY.
THEY ALWAYS CHOKE IN THE END. THEY'RE UNLUCKY
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FIGURE SKATING CAREER, HUH? YOU EVER STOP TO THINK ABOUT THAT?!
THEY'LL SAY, "THERE WAS A GIRL OVER AT THE TOKYO INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF ACTS BY THE NAME OF HIZURU OBOROZUKI
SHE BEGAN HER CAREER AS AN AMAZING FIGURE SKATER..
BUT SHE ENDED IT IN TRACTION JUST ANOTHER X GAMES WANNABE

?!
БУДД!

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT LOSING IS SUPPOSED TO HURT
HEY, WHAT'S WITH LETTING ME FALL ON MY ASS, HUH?
I'LL LET YOUR COMPETITORS KNOW. THEY'LL BE GENTLER NEXT TIME THEY BEAT YOU.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SUCH A DELICATE MAID.
BUT WHAT DID I EXPECT FROM SOMEONE THAT BLAMES EVERYTHING WRONG IN HER LIFE ON BAD LUCK INSTEAD OF TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR HERSELF?
HEY, GET YOUR ASS BACK HERE!
YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO TALK TO ME LIKE THAT! WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, ANYWAY?!

SO YOU'RE THE GUY WHO SENT IN THAT TAPE--THE ONE THEY WANT ME TO USE NOW? FIGURES
OHH!
COACH MINAMIDA?
I'LL BE PERFORMING IT LIVE VERY SOON SO DO YOURSELF A FAVOR
AND GET BACK TO THE RINK! YOU NEED TO PUT SOME ICE ON YOUR ASS ANYHOW
LIVE OR NOT, WHO CARES?
I'M GONNA END UP ON THE BENCH ANYWAY!
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
YOU'RE A FIGURE SKATER, REMEMBER?
THE NAME'S TAKUYA HIJOU. YOUR COACH ASKED ME TO COME BY REGARDING MUSIC FOR YOUR NEW SKATING ROUTINE

FINE, THEN. DON'T COME.
IF YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WITH A "WHO CARES, ANYHOW" ATTITUDE, FINE
I DON'T CARE, EITHER.

IT'S A WHOLE LOT FASTER THAN TRACING LETTERS ON MY BACK!
WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?! DON'T JUST STAND THERE.
Hah!
U-T-
H-E-
S-C-
TRACE
E-
!!
Tee hee!
Yo!
What are you getting all bent out of shape about? Still! This isn't enough?
AND AS FOR BEING CUTE... HE'S NOT I MEAN, COME ON!
HE'S TOO STUCK-UP FOR HIS OWN GOOD. HE OOZED CONFIDENCE LIKE A ZIT. I HATE GUYS LIKE THAT. THEY'RE ALL THE SAME. ALL WANTING TO SAVE ME FROM MYSELF... HOW ABOUT SAVING ME FROM THEM, HUH?
ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE SHE'S THE ONE...?
DOES SHE HAVE TO BE THE ONE? THE ONE I'M SUPPOSED TO WORK WITH ON THIS MISSION?!
Yeah yeah I was totally feelin it from her too Chirp-chirp

HERE GOES EVERYTHING...
Poof!
Where the youth deemed the top of their craft in music, dance, art, theater, writing, filmmaking and photography gather. A place for the gifted.
The Tokyo International Acadamy of Arts (TIAA)
KYAAHHH!
As the top Arts Acadamy in Japan, it's insistence on academic and artistic excellance is world-renowned.
A TRIPLE SPIN ON YOUR BUTT! TRICKY I GUESS THERE'S NO CHANCE OF FALLING THAT WAY
HEY, THAT'S NEW!

YOU KEEP FALLING ON YOUR ASS LIKE THAT, AND WE WON'T HAVE TO WIPE THE ICE WHEN YOU'RE DONE
LOSER! YOU KNOW, THOUGH, YOU ARE GOOD FOR SOMETHING.
WHO CARES?

Please refrain from any further rude comments! You're disrupting practice!
P.S. The coach thinks that Hiieuru-chan's got talent. So shut up! Ha ha ha ha ha ha!!
HER ASS AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' ON HER BOOBS.
BESIDES, YOU HAVE SUCH A NICE BUTT. WHY YOU WANNA BRUISE IT LIKE THAT?

ALL RIGHT! EVERYONE OFF THE RINK!
HIJOU-KUN, HERE, WAS KIND ENOUGH TO COME PERFORM HIS SONG FOR OUR UPCOMING COMPETITION HE'S DOING IT LIVE FOR US
EWW, WHAT'S UP WITH THE ATTITUDE, ANYWAY?
WHAT A CREEP
NOT SO FAST WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU'RE SKATING ALONG WITH HIS PERFORMANCE
WHAT?!

HIJOU-KUN REQUESTED YOU PERSONALLY
OBOROZUKI-SAN
WHATEVER. IT'S THEIR FAULT FOR MAKING ME DO THIS. WHO CARES IF--
HOW CAN THEY... HOW CAN THEY POSSIBLY EXPECT ME TO PERFORM JUST LIKE THAT?!
WHO CARES IF I--
I CAN'T DO THIS. I'M JUST GONNA FALL ON MY FACE.

IF YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WITH THAT "WHO CARES, ANYHOW" ATTITUDE, FINE.
YOU CAN DO IT!

MY BODY FEELS SO LIGHT
IT NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE
I THOUGHT SHE WAS A RESERVE
BUT LOOK AT HER!
I DID IT! THREE AND A HALF REVOLU-TIONS!
HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO !!!!!!!

W-WHAT IS THAT?!
WWWA AARRR RRRRRR RHHH!
WHAT DO I HAVE HERE? I CAME FOR THE MUSICAL PRODIGY, BUT...
WHO IS THIS FIGURE SKATER?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
NOT BAD AT ALL
SHE'S NOT BAD.
IT'S NOT JUST THE SONG THE SOUND WAVES THEMSELVES.. THEY'RE ALL AROUND ME. ENVELOPING ME..
THIS CAN'T BE THE SAME SONG THAT WAS ON THAT TAPE!
IT'S..A FAMILIAR FEELING... LIKE..

!!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
KYAA AAHHHH-HHHHH!

HIZURU!
She's over there! It has her! Cheep-cheep!
ACT. 1 END

BABY BIRTH

story
Sukehiro Tomita
art
Haruhiko Mikimoto

1

TOKYOPOP

BABY BIRTH

story - Sukehiro Tomita
art - Haruhiko Mikimoto

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BABY BIRTH

An ancient seal has been broken, sending a flood of demons into the martial realm. Hizuru Oborozuki is a student figure skater who just doesn't care enough to excel. Takuya Hijou is a musical super-genius whose talent is only matched by his ego. The one mystery greater than the source of their mystical abilities is how they'll manage to stop fighting one another long enough to protect the world from demonic domination!

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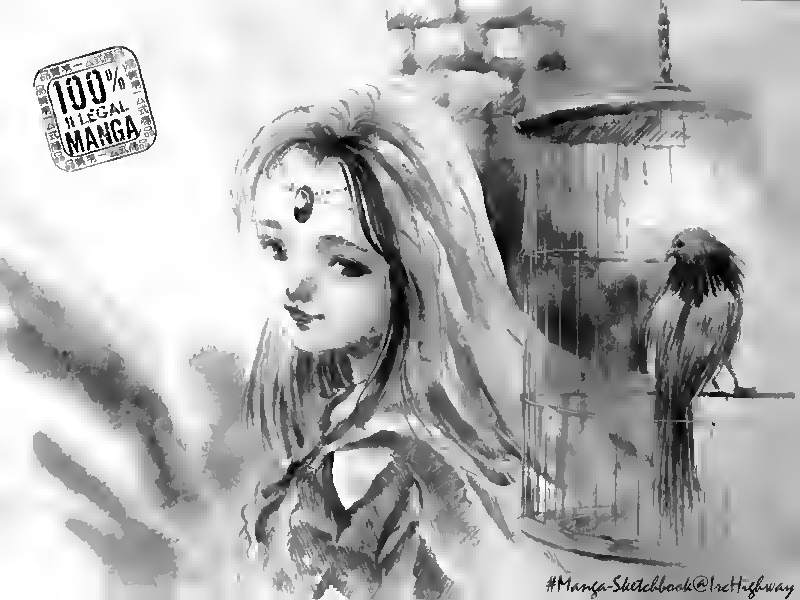
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ACT. 2 Resonance
*EEEE EKKKUU UU-RAR
HIZURU!

WE TAKE THIS GIRL WITH US SSSS! KU KE KE!

E-EVERY-ONE...
R-RUN!
W-WHAT ARE THEY?!
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO NOW! YOU CAN'T USE HER AGAINST US!
KU KE KE...
DAMMIT!
THEY BEAT US TO HER!
We've got to do something or we've had it!

?!
ハグッ
KU KE?!

KE KE KE KE...
SERVES YOU RIGHT FOR TALKIN' BEHIND MY BACK, SUCKER!
EWWW, WHAT'S WITH THESE THINGS?!
KEKEKE KE KEKEKEKE KEHH!
HIZURU! START SKATING!
GET OUT OF THERE!!

OKAY!

KE?
There's only one thing you can do to help her Tokuya So get going! Chirp-chirp!
ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED ME TO DO, BABY?! BAKE A CAKE? JUGGLE? SAVE THE WORLD?
WE HAVE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT COCKINESS OF HERS!
GOTTA DUCK!
HAH!
Later. Now's your chance! Chirp-chirp!

W-WHAT IS HE GOIN' ON ABOUT NOW? AND AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
WILL IT BE ENOUGH...?
WILL MY PLAYING REALLY BE ENOUGH...?
HIZURU!
ENTRUST YOURSELF TO MY SOUND!

IS MY MUSICAL SURGE TRULY ENOUGH TO AWAKEN THE POWERS WITHIN HER?!

?!

ENOUGH TO RESONATE WITH HER ELEMENTAL WAVE SPHERE?!

SO POWERFUL... IT'S A TIDAL WAVE OF SOUND.
THIS SONG...

IT ENVELOPS ALL OF WHAT I AM IT'S SO WARM

SO HOT!

HIZURU!
KU KE KE KE KEKE KE...
YOU'RE MINE!
AAAHHH!

No!
I'M COMING TO HELP!
Nnnnn!
I already told you! The only thing you can do to help her now is play! Chirp-chirp!

I HAVE CONSUMED IT! THE CHILD IS MINE!
KU KE KE KE KE, KE
HEAR ME! LISTEN TO IT-- MY SONIC DIVINITY!

GUGG GRRRGG HHHHH!
GYEEE HHGG GGRHH!!
YOU'RE NEXT, TAKUYA HIJOUUU UUUUUU!
GYIEE HH!

The Divine Surge isn't just pretty to look at!
She's also got one explosive personality! Chirp!
You should count your blessings that you got to witness the Resonance of the Elements before you bit the dust! Cheep-cheep!
!?

KE?!
KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE?!

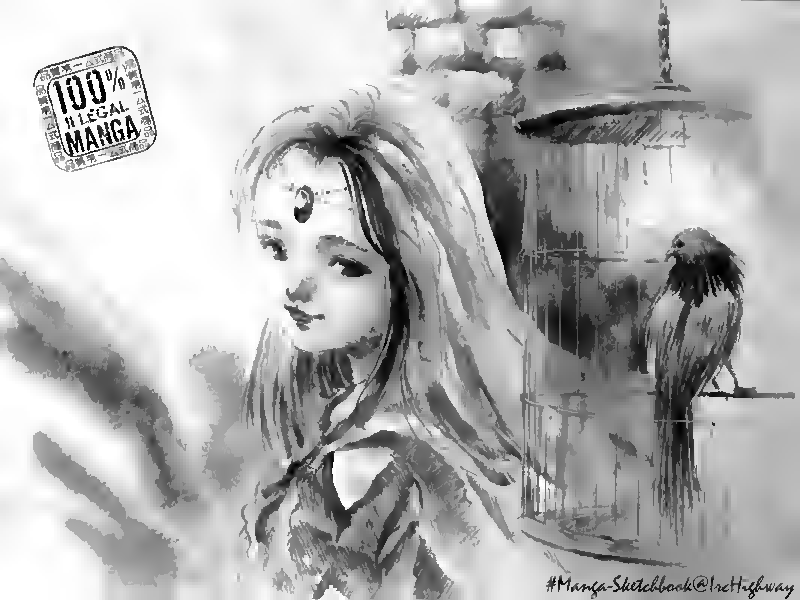
GUGGI EHHH HHHHHH!
GEEEE 3000 HHHH!
GYYAA AHHH HHHH!

So it's begun
YEAH ..
I think you two will work really well together Chirp-chirp
SHUT UP YOU COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG.
SHE'S OVERLY COCKY AND STUBBORN LOOK AT HER.
SHE'S GOT MORE UPS AND DOWNS THAN A ROLLER COASTER AND I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT HER FIGURE.

THA-THUMP
THIS JACKET...?

(T_T)
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...? OH GOD, WHAT'S HAPPENED?!
OH, ICHIGO!

ACT. 2 END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ACT. 3 The Chosen One

W-WHAT'S THIS MARK ON ME?
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY BODY?
EH? IT VAN-ISHED!

AAHH!
AHH...
AH.
AAH!
AAH?
AAH!
AH!
OOPS?
AA!

LISTEN, ALL OF YOU! LISTEN TO THE PROFESSOR!
SHE SAID I WAS ABSOLUTELY NORMAL. EVERYTHING IS FINE.
WELL...
I GUESS IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED I MEAN, LOOK AT YOU
AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, I MEAN.
NAME ANY OTHER GIRL YOU KNOW WHO GOT ATTACKED BY SOME MUCK MONSTER AND DID NOT SUFFER SOME SIDE EFFECTS!
HALLUCINATIONS SHOULD BE A GIVEN THAT MONSTER ALMOST TURNED ME INTO A MONJA-YAKI SNACK!
MONSTER?
Monja...?!
!!
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT SO SANE AFTER ALL!
YOU RUNNING A FEVER OR SOME-THING?
STOP IT ALREADY!
You're acting weird Hieuru-chan (-_-) That was just a bad dream you had.
ICHIGO, YOU WERE THERE! TELL HER ABOUT THAT CREA-TURE!
OR MAYBE YOUR SHOCK FROM THE RINK'S CAVE-IN WAS A LOT WORSE THAN THE DOC-TORS THOUGHT

A DREAM?! SHE'S GOT TO BE KIDDIN' ME IT COULDN'T BE. BUT WHY DOESN'T ANYONE REMEMBER ANYTHING?!
!!
NO WAIT HE WAS THERE TOO! THE MUSICIAN!
HE'S GOT TO REMEMBER!
HUH?
HIZURU-SAN?!
TAKUYA ...
HIJOU!

HIZURU...
..OBOROZUKI
ONLY ONE OF THE PICTURES I TOOK DURING THE COLLAPSE DEVELOPED CORRECTLY, AND SHE WAS SMACK-DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF IT A LITTLE STRANGE, I THINK
IT'S FAIRLY SAFE TO SAY THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD CAREER MOVE TO FOLLOW HER.

But you won't fail... will you?
They failed to kill her before her Awakening. Typical.

Staff Room
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
SCHOOL OF MUSICOLOGY, COMPOSITION MAJOR. 1ST YEAR, CLASSROOM B, EH?
THAT ARROGANT BASTARD!
NOW I'M REALLY PISSED.
JUST ANOTHER X GAMES WANNABE.
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT WE WERE THE SAME AGE.

He's so cute... Do you think he's going with anyone?
TAKUYA! YOU'RE SOOO CUTE!
I could be his Miss Right Now!
OH MY GOD!
COULD YOU TURN THIS WAY, PLEASE?
switch switch switch
!!
They should close him!
'SCUSE ME! YO, OVER HERE
ABOUT YOUR JACKET? THE ONE YOU LENT ME YESTERDAY THE ONE I WOKE UP NAKED IN? I SENT IT TO THE DRY CLEANERS, SO

Master Takuya!
I'M VERY SORRY, LADIES, BUT I REALLY MUST BE GOING
Takuya!
I SAID, EXCUSE--
ドドドドド
HMMPM!
THANKS A LOT, BITCH. WAY TO PISS HIM OFF... AS WELL AS THE REST OF US.
MEET ME BENEATH THE GODDESS STATUE ON MY SIGNAL.
GAHH! NOW I'M THE ONE THAT'S REALLY PISSED OFF!

THAT VOICE ..
キャッ
キャッ
HUH?
IT WASN'T JUST A DREAM! IT WAS HIS VOICE IN MY HEAD!
IT WASN'T JUST A DREAM!

Girls' Dormitory
UNTIL
I WONDER WHAT HE MEANT BY "SIGNAL"?

STARE
Ack!
THA-THUMP
I-ICHIGO?
I KNOW THEY'RE SMALL STOP STARING THEY'RE NOT GONNA GROW WITH YOU LOOKING AT THEM!
W-WHAT?

IF THIS WEIRD THING KEEPS RANDOMLY SHOWING UP ON MY CHEST LIKE THAT, THEN
NO WAY!
BREASTS OR NOT, I'M GONNA HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE STARING AT MY CHEST!
HIZURU-CHAN?

I'M GLAD YOU NOTICED MY SIGNAL
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO SHOW FOR A MOMENT THERE
HOW COULD I NOT NOTICE ?!
HIJOU-SAN.
YOU'RE TOO LOUD
AND WOULD YOU PLEASE HAND MY JACKET OVER?
H-HUH?
NEXT TIME BLOW SOMETHING UP IN FRONT OF ME, OKAY? AT LEAST THAT WOULD BE A LITTLE MORE DISCREET!
TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON FIRST

I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING ANYWAY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD MY JACKET HOSTAGE
THERE ARE A LOT OF REASONS FOR WHAT'S GOING ON
BUT I'LL MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT
YOU AND I--WE'RE PARTNERS.

ARE YOU TRYIN' TO PICK ME UP OR SOME-THING?
!!
HERE! CATCH!
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA HERE!
I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER! YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE.
BUT...
UN-FORTUNATELY FOR THE BOTH OF US...
...YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE ENDOWED WITH THE "POWER"
THE POWER TO STAND UP AGAINST--AND TAKE DOWN--THOSE DEMONS!

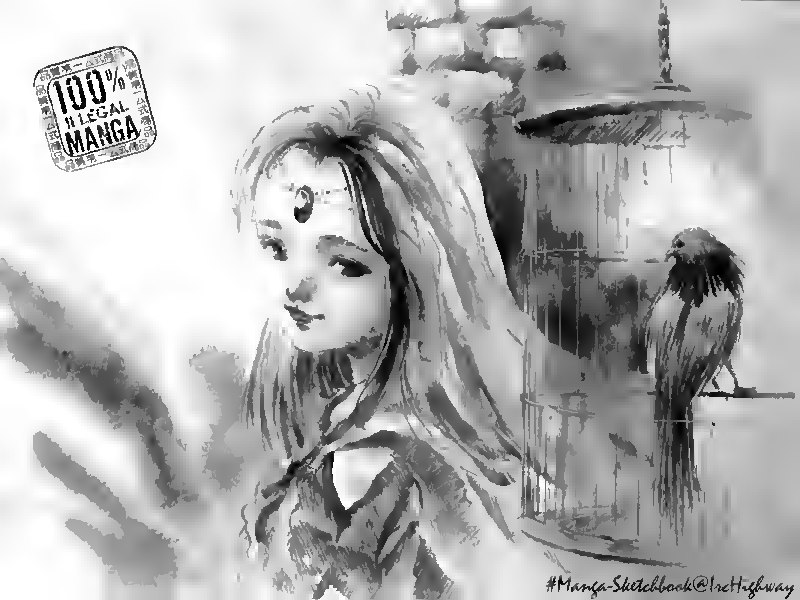
YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED THE CHANGES WITHIN YOU?
DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T REMEMBER THE INCI-DENT AT THE SKATING RINK.
"POWER?"
!!

W-WHAT--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
W-WAIT! STOP! I CAN'T-- NOT HERE!
I-I'M NOT READY YET... THEY'RE... THEY'RE REALLY SMALL.

AN "EMBLEM?"
NOT THAT, GIRL. THIS DESIGN
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S CALLED AN "EMBLEM."
IT'S A UNIQUE SYMBOL SOLELY YOUR OWN. IT'S EVIDENCE THAT YOU ARE THE INHERITOR OF THE DIVINE SOUL
CALLED THE "SPHERE" THAT YOU ARE THE INHERITOR OF THE POWER!
THE DIVINE..
...SOUL?

THAT'S RIGHT.
AND I--
WHAT?
WHAT IS IT?
SHUT UP!
AH ...
Blink Blink
ICHIGO ?!
BEHIND HER! DON'T YOU SEE IT?

ACT. 3 End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ACT. 4 Revelations

IF YOU WANT YOUR LITTLE FRIEND BACK...
...THEN YOU HAD BETTER FOLLOW ME!

...
!!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
BUT--!
IF YOU GO NOW THEY'LL HAVE YOU EXACTLY WHERE THEY WANT YOU AND IF THAT HAPPENS...
...YOU CAN KISS THE WORLD YOU KNOW GOOD-BYE! WE LOSE
SLAP
?!

SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR ICHIGO TO DIE FOR THIS WORLD, BUT NOT ME?!
HOW DARE YOU?! HOW CAN YOU BE SO HEARTLESS?
DAMMIT
I'M GOING AFTER HER!!
NO! STOP!
WAAAH-HHHH!

THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE WITHOUT A PRECIOUS INSTRUMENT TO PLAY.
TSK! USELESS!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE UTTERLY POWERLESS? TO BE UNABLE TO CREATE-- MUCH LESS SEND-- YOUR DIVINE SURGE TO YOUR PARTNER?
GUAA HHHH HHHH!
WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A POWERLESS, WORTHLESS HUMAN BEING?!

YOU HAVE TO . HAVE TO FIND... HIZURU...
Takuya! Are you all right?!
IF YOU HAVE TO KNOW...
HER SLAP HURT A HELLUVA LOT MORE THAN THAT...
NOW WATCH AS YOUR PARTNER DIES! AHHH, IF ONLY YOU HAD BEEN ABLE TO "AWAKEN" HER.

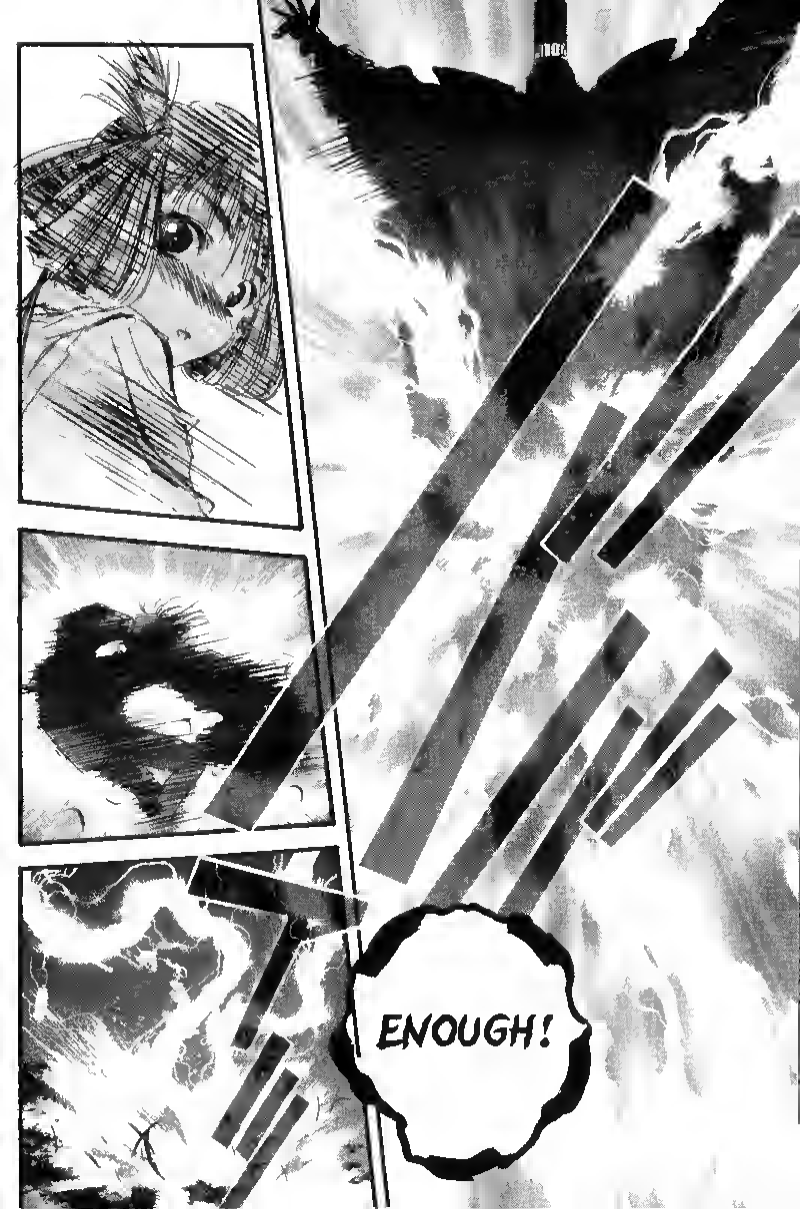
POP
I-ICHIGO...
KYAH!
W-WHAT ON EARTH?
You can't leave Takuya's side! Cheep-cheep!

W-WHAT ARE YOU?
My name's Rhythm
You won't be able to do anything if you run off after her! Cheep-cheep!
If you really want to save your friend, then listen up! Chirp-chirp!
WELL, YER TIMING'S REALLY OFF!
?
Whatever. I don't have time for games!

I speak to you now through the voice of my loyal servant, Rhythm
I speak to you now as my power once used to maintain the Equilibrium by banishing Demons into darkness, wanes
Hear me, Inheritor of the Divine Soul, Hizuru Oborozuki!

This is your Divine Mission!
And with this Resonance send those beasts back into the Darkness from whence they came! It is the only way to reclaim the Balance!

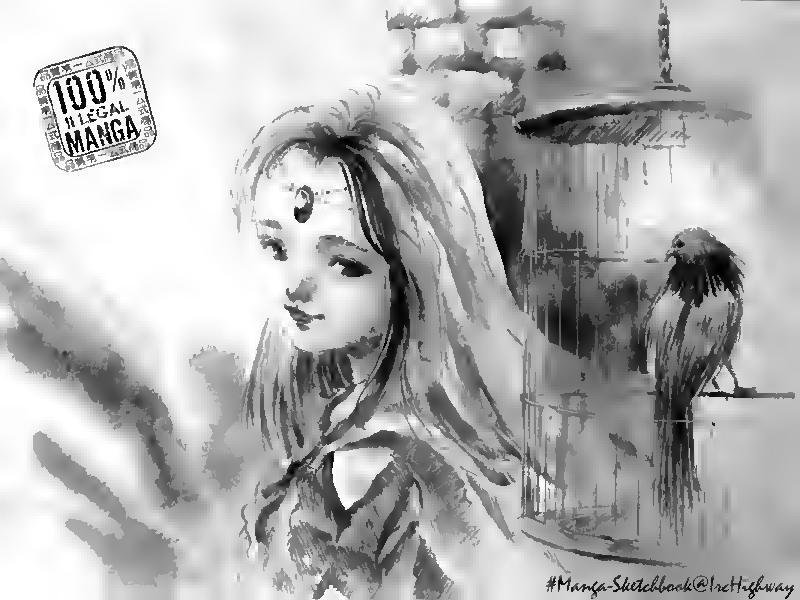
As my power diminishes a gap is created It widens as The Balance between Light and Darkness wavers Through this gap Demons enter and mount their assault upon this world— this world crafted of the Light.
I beseech you! Use the Resonance between you and the one known as Takuya Hijou to Awaken your Power Do it!


ENOUGH!

IF THAT DIVINE "WHATEVER" HAD ANY SENSE AT ALL, SHE'D HAVE JUST HAD ME INHERIT THAT DAMN POWER!
BUT NO, SHE HAD TO MAKE IT A PARTNERSHIP INSTEAD

I LEAVE YOU WITH NO WAY TO PERFORM YOUR MELODY AND YET YOU COME BACK FOR MORE?!
YOU SPIRITUAL TYPES-- YOU'RE ALL GLUTTONS FOR PUNISHMENT.
LOOK, THE LIFE OF THE WORLD'S SAVIOR, A.K.A. ME-- WHO JUST HAPPENS TO ALSO BE A PRODIGY COMPOSER--RUNS ON A PRETTY TIGHT SCHEDULE, BUT...
...I SEE THAT KICKING YOUR ASS HAS BEEN PENCILED INTO MY PLANNER.
YOU'VE MESSED WITH THE WRONG MUSICAL GENIUS, PAL. BUT IT'S YOUR REQUIEM.

ACT. 4 END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ACT. 5 Awakening

WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY HOPE TO DO WITHOUT AN INSTRUMENT?
WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO PERFORM YOUR DIVINE MELODY?
WELL? WHAT?!
TSK. AS I SUSPECTED. NOTHING. NOW THE ULTIMATE "TREASURE" SHALL BELONG TO THE MASTER DEMIGOD!
AND THE LONG-AWAITED HOPES OF ALL THE DEMONS BANISHED BY YOUR MASTER, LIGHT, SHALL FINALLY COME TO FRUITION!

KILL THEM!
!!

FO HO
HO HO
HO HO
HO HO...

HUH?!
?!

THE MELODY?!
B-BUT HOW?!
TITLE: "THE PORTENT OF AWAKENING." THANK YOU VERY MUCH. IT'S GOING TO BE A BIG SELLER.
MELODY NO. 3. COMPOSITION BY CHILD PRODIGY TAKUYA HIJOU!

ピッポッポ
ピピピ
OH! MY GOSH!
HE'S USING THE PUSH TONES ON ICHIGO'S CELL PHONE AS AN INSTRUMENT!
HE'S INCREDI-BLE!
DON'T JUST SIT THERE!
IT'S YOUR TURN!
HUH?!

STUPID BRAT!
YOUR PATHETIC DIVINE SOUND WALL IS NOTHING. IT CRUMBLES UNDER THE MIGHT OF DARKNESS!
MELODY NO. 12.
"THE RETURN OF THE ANCIENT KING"!

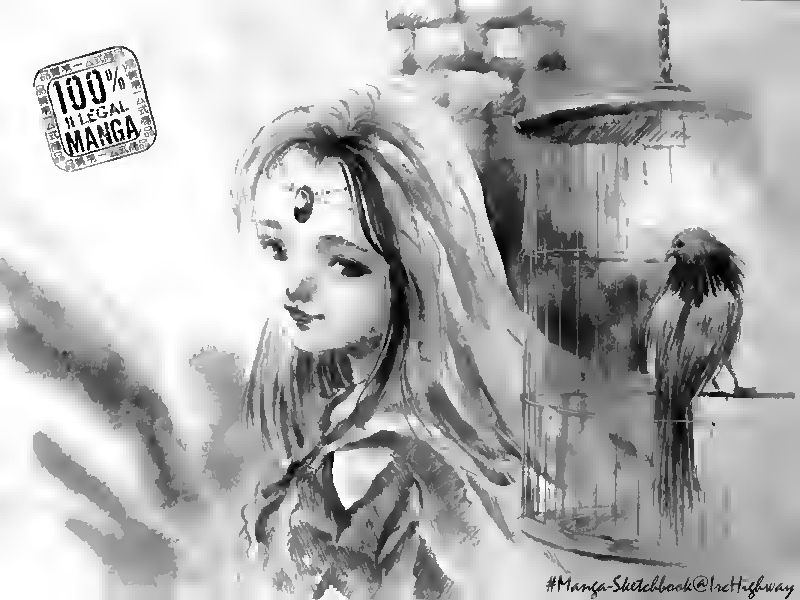
HIS MUSIC MOVES ME AT THE VERY CORE OF MY EXISTENCE
FEELING SO HOT...

AWAKEN NOW!
WARRIOR OF THE PAST!

!!
GOOOOO!

GYAA HHA HHH HHH H...
I-IT CANNOT BE...!
WE... WE DID IT?!

ACT. 5 END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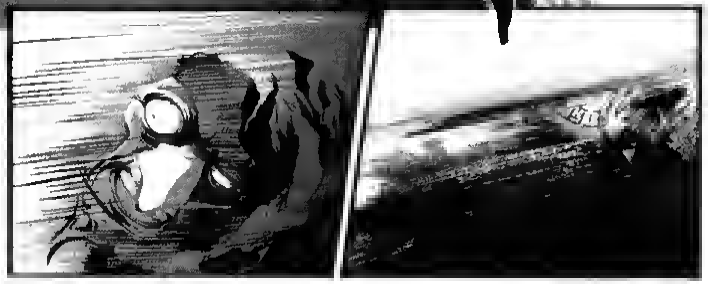
ACT. 6 Berserker

WE DID IT?! WE BEAT IT?!

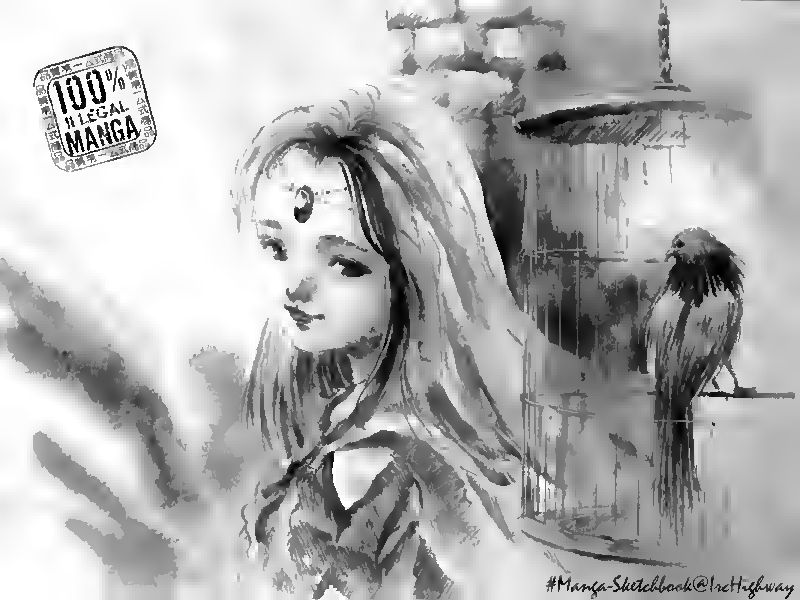
Look at her face!
Not yet! Cheep!
!!

WHAT?



КУДА НА НА НА НА НА!

The Power! It's too much for her! She can't control it! Chirp-chirp!
Her mind is losing the balance between logic and passion! Cheep! She's going berserk!
You have to use your Melody to suppress her Divine Surge! Cheep!
I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED ALL THIS TO OVERLOAD A GIRL LIKE THAT. NOW I KNOW FOR SURE WHY THEY SHOULD HAVE PICKED ME ALONE!
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO SETTLE FOR BEING A MUSICAL SUPER GENIUS!
ACT. 6 END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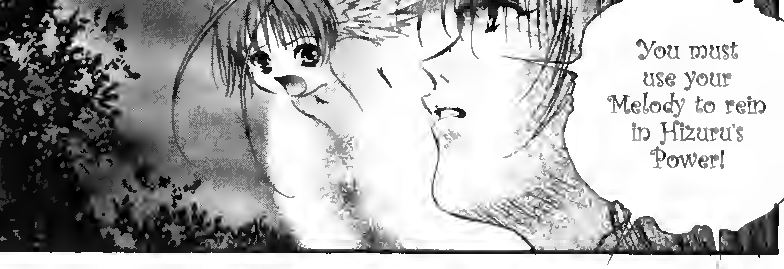

You must use your Melody to rein in Hizuru's Power!

HAH HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA!

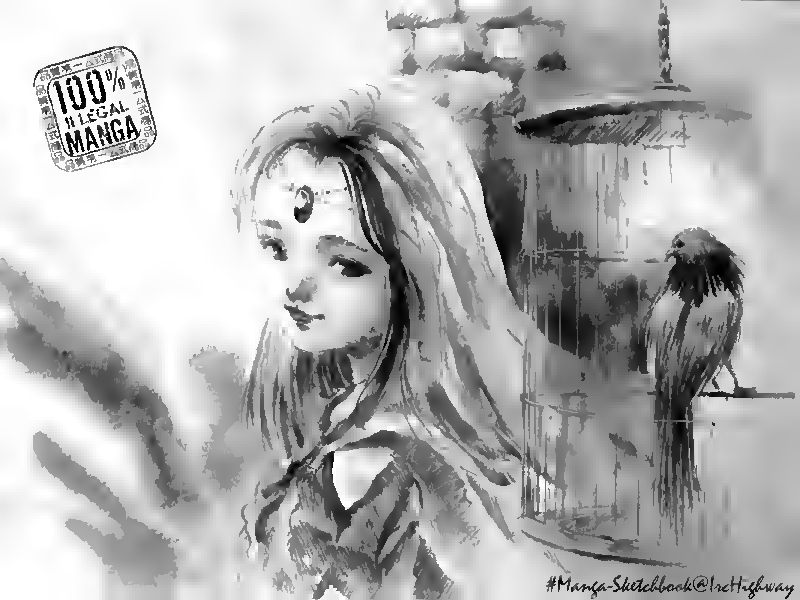
Hurry! Who knows what she'll do?
DAMMIT!
HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO STOP THAT?!
With your Melody! Start by envisioning Hizuru as a warrior! Chirp!
"AS A WARRIOR"?

HOPE YOU CAN HEAR THIS!
IMPROMPTU MELODY NO. 1.
"WALTZ OF THE ROWDY SWAN"!

IS THAT REALLY HER? WOW!
She's finally Awake! Chirp-chirp!
Dooh!HH
THIS IS NOT OVER YET. SHE'S STILL A NEWBORN TO HER POWER.
ELIMINATE HER! NOW!

LOOK OUT!

-ACT. 7 END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!!
I TOLD YOU, CHILD OF LIGHT, IT'S NOT OVER YEEEEEEET!
?!

KRRGHH!
I'LL TEAR YOU APART-- LIMB FROM LIMB...
YOU WHELP!
?!
HEH HEH HEE HEH... HEE HEH HA...
Do something, Takuya! Chirp-chirp!

HE'S SO DEAD!
W What's wrong, Takuya?
What's so funny?! Chirp?
HAH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME NOT TO LAUGH?!
WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN EVERYTHING'S SO CLEAR TO ME! I HEAR THEM. I DO.

THEY LIFT THE SOUL!
I HEAR YOUR SONGS! WHAT GLORIOUS MELODIES!
ピポピポ
IMPROMPTU MELODY NO. 2!
CAN'T HOLD ON
I JUST CAN'T CAN'T HOLD ON ANY
P-PO SOMETHING PLEASE
"THE LAST FLIGHT OF THE COWARDLY LOSER GIRL THAT NOBODY CARES ABOUT"!
NNH!

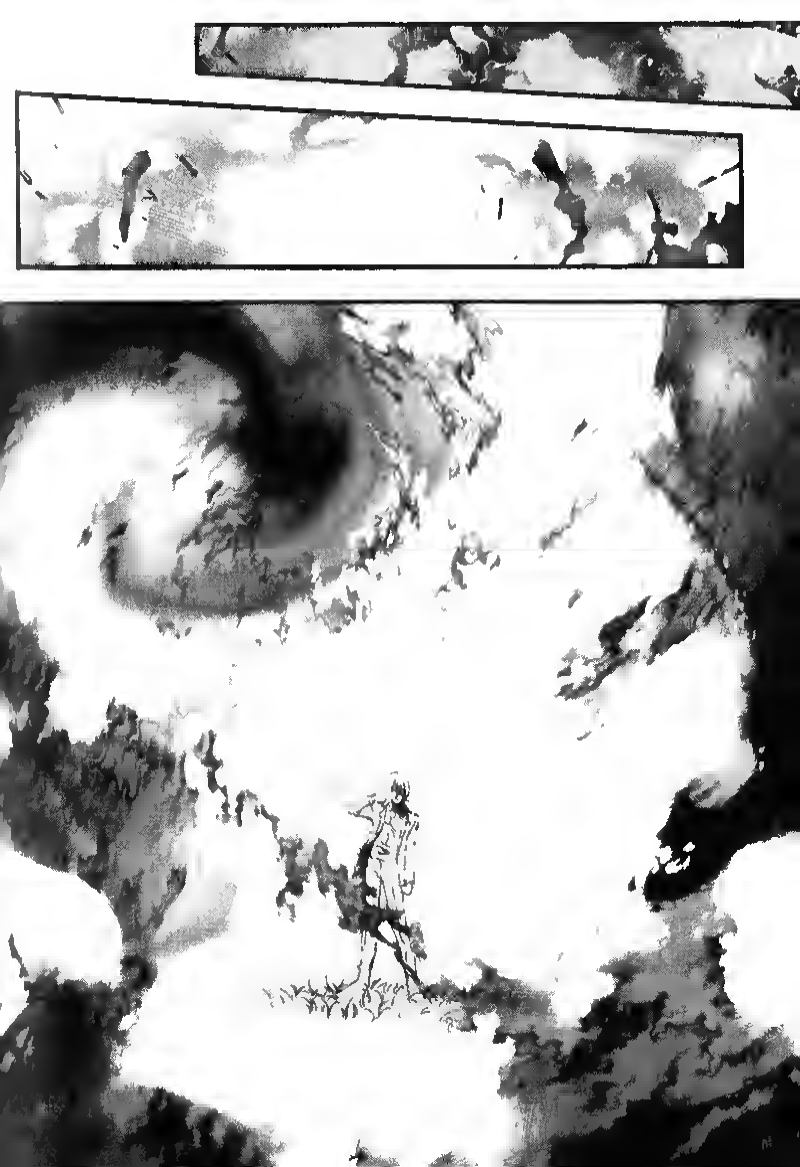
GRRRR!
NO 3!
"MY ALL FOR MY FRIEND"!
!!
What are you doing, Yakuya?! Chirp?
IF YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WITH A "WHO CARES, ANYHOW" ATTITUDE, FINE.
You can do it, Hisuru-chan!

GRRR!
RRRRR...
...RRRRR
MY ALL...
RRR!
RRRRR!
...FOR MY FRIEND!

RRRGRH!
HHH!
HHH!
GGRGRH!
RRRGH!
RRR!
GGGRR!

ドドド

GGGRR!
RRGH!
RG!
GRRGH!
RRGGGH!
RAAARRR!



We did it!
You were awesome! Cheep-cheep! What's wrong with you?
We Won!
Y-YEAH
BUT SOMETHING JUST ISN'T RIGH--
Takuya!
There she is

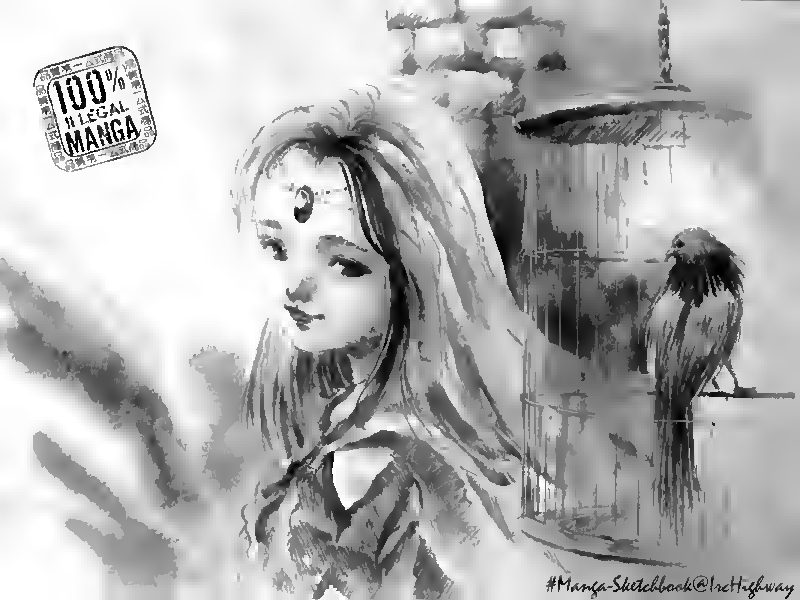
You're blushing! Chirp-chirp!
I DON'T BLUSH!
JUST COVER HER UP AND--

WHAT'S GOING ON?

I C-CAN'T MOVE...?!

ACT. 8 END

BABY BIRTH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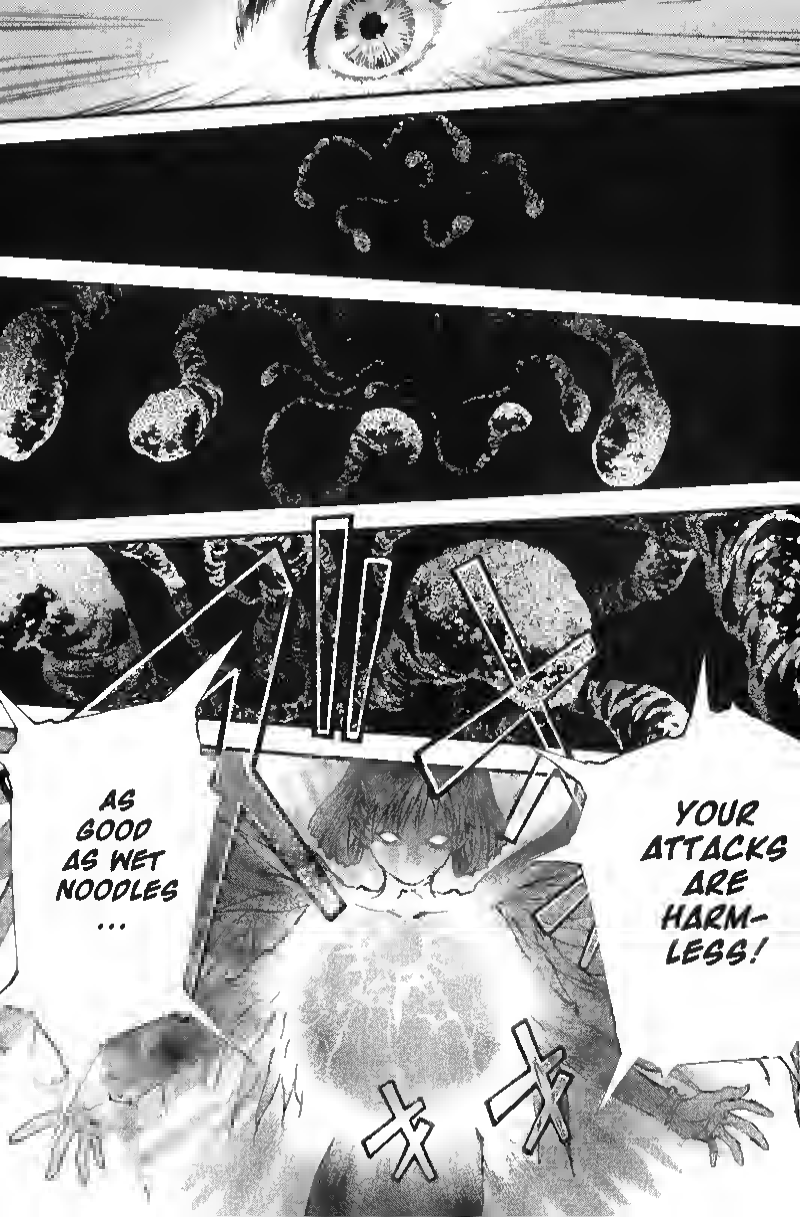

AS GOOD AS WET NOODLES ...
YOUR ATTACKS ARE HARM-LESS!

Make That Fried Noodles
...YOU PUNK!

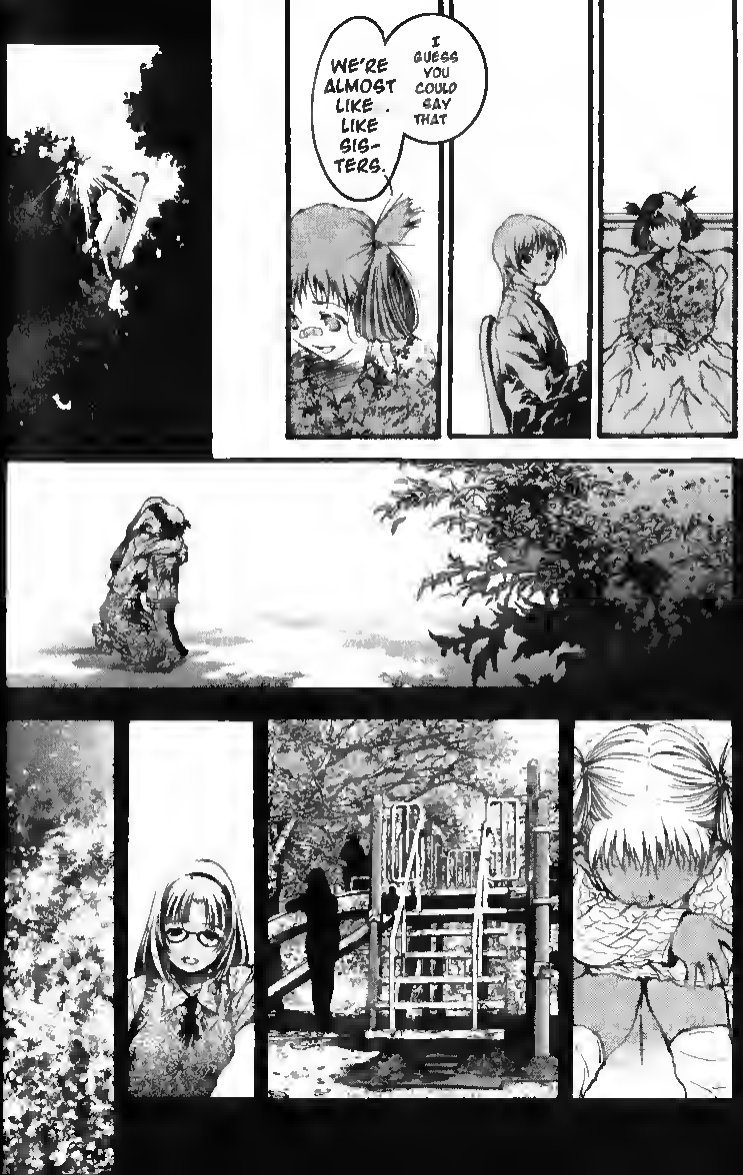
ACT. 9 The Ancient Miracle

munch munch
slurrrp
Tokyo International Acadamy of Arts (TIAA) Hospital
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I COULD POSSIBLY GAIN BY THE TWO OF US BEING "ONE WITH EACH OTHER."
AND DON'T TALK ABOUT ME AND YOU BEING "ONE WITH EACH OTHER" OR WHATNOT
SO HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS TOTALLY CRAVING FRIED NOODLES, ANYWAY, HUH?
LET ME RECOMMEND A MUZZLE OR GAG YOU TALK IN YOUR SLEEP.
ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT PIGS DO INDEED FLY, OR YOU ACTUALLY ONE DAY BECOME FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH A HUMAN OF THE OPPOSITE SEX
EVEN MORE THAN WHEN YOU'RE AWAKE! WHICH IS SOMETHING I DIDN'T THINK WAS EVEN POSSIBLE
.....

WHY ON EARTH ARE YOU FIGHTING HIM, HIZURU?!
AT THE VERY LEAST YOU COULD THANK HIM
HIJOU-KUN WAS THE ONE WHO FOUND YOU AND BROUGHT YOU TO THE HOSPITAL
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE JUST LYING THERE NAKED IN BACK OF THE DORMITORY
WHAT KIND OF LIFESTYLE ARE YOU LIVING, ANYHOW?!
WHEN I SAY NAKED, I MEAN, NAKED!
NAKED?
IT WAS MORE LIKE SEEING A NAKED CHILD I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD CALL THE PARAMEDICS OR YOUR NANNY
NOT THAT SEEING SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED A THRILL FOR ANYONE
HIJOU!!
ANSWER MY QUESTION, HIZURU!

N-NOTHING. I PROMISE.
glance
YOU PROMISED ME A LONG TIME AGO, REMEMBER? YOU SWORE WE'D NEVER KEEP SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER
BASTARD!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!
YOU HAVE BRUISES ALL OVER YOU
WE'VE BEEN HONEST WITH EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE KIDS, HIZURU.
PLEASE
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
HEY LOOK!
IT'S DOCTOR TOYOETSU!
HA HA HA! SUCKER!
...

WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE HOW YOUR BOYFRIEND'S DOING INSTEAD? HE'S INTO THE ATTENTION.
I FEEL GREAT. REALLY, REALLY, REALLY!
WELL, OKAY I WAS NEVER ANY GOOD AT LYING TO YOU, WAS I?
DON'T BE DUMB, HIZURU!
SO WHICH WERE YOU MORE WORRIED ABOUT? ME IN MY "CONDITION," OR DOCTOR TOYOETSU?
HEH HEH. HAVE FUN.
BUT IF I MUST-- AND YOU INSIST-- MAYBE JUST A MINUTE OR FIFTEEN...
YOU'RE AWFUL, HIZURU..
YOU'RE PRETTY CLOSE WITH COACH MINAMIDA, AREN'T YOU?


WE'RE ALMOST LIKE . LIKE SIS-TERS.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT SINCE

WE'VE JUST BEEN THROUGH A LOT... THAT'S ALL.
OH. NOTHING
SINCE WHAT...?
WHERE'S ICHIGO?!
ICHIGO
!!
SHE'S IN INTENGIVE CARE
!!

ICHIGO!
OWW!

STOP THAT! YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE OUT OF BED TO BEGIN WITH
BUT ICHIGO!
SHE'S JUST SLEEPING SHE'S FINE
?!
THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY EXTRA BEDS HERE, SO SHE'S JUST RESTING OVER IN THE I.C.U. WING, OKAY?
Ooh! Lookit that! Already so close? Chirp! I know you two are partners and all, but still
Who would have thought you'd get together so soon?
LOOK, FLY-ON-THE-WALL GIRL, YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET SMATTED!

?
!!
?!
MY HEA... WHAT'S GOING ON?

GYYYAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE INSTEAD OF LAUNCHING ME INTO SPACE LIKE THIS?! YOU FREAKED ME OUT!
Relax, drama queen! It's just a telepathic image! Cheep-cheep!
Okay listen up You wanted to know what this is all about Here it is A long, long time ago mankind lived alongside the Demons—known as the Suspicion—on this very planet Chirp-chirp
I did warn you You just weren't listening. Chirp
WELL, THEN, I GUESS MY PARTNER WASN'T DOING HIS JOB, WAS HE? HE SHOULD HAVE PREPPED ME BETTER OR SOMETHING
But one day the Suspicion decided to rise up and they used force to take control of the people and planet
OH PLEASE, SOMEONE TELL ME I CAN STILL SWITCH PARTNERS!

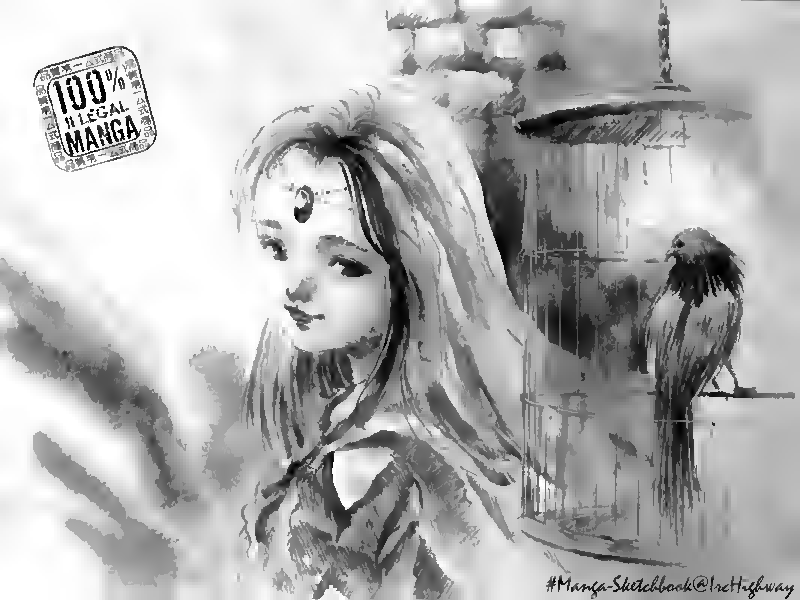
There were many noble warriors
the power of the Suspicion was immense. and
one by one these warriors fell.
But that's when it happened.
They gave everything they had to fight back the Suspicion Cheep
But. .
It seemed that all hope was lost and the Suspicion would truly take control of the world
That's when she appeared! Chirp-chirp!
Mistress Teos.

No one knows for certain if it truly was Her prayers that entered the hearts of mankind but from the depths of each persons being something white and terribly powerful was unleashed

She mourned the impending destruction of mankind Her tears became prayers She prayed that those without hope would once again rise up and fight for that which they loved—that they would find hope

Hundreds and thousands of rays of light—gathered from all the corners of the world—joined together and became
!!

ACT. 9 END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ACT. 10 The Divine Guardian

These rays of light and life were released from the people's bodies
One by one, they gathered and joined together until
they formed the one great Power...

HIZURU!

HUNGRY..
SO...
.....
!
That Power—created from all the people's hopes and dreams—is what birthed the Divine Guardian "Reverie" Chirp!
WHO... WHAT'S REVERIE...?
What you might understand as a collection of the hopes of the many...
or see as a giant amalgamation of spiritual auras that's what we refer to as Reverie! Chirp-chirp

Once Reverie was done sealing the Suspicion into Darkness
Reverie broke itself up into a great number of fragments referred to as the "Divine Treasures" which then lay down to rest. Cheep

Mistress Teos sacrificed herself so that no Suspicion could ever appear in this world again
But...
She used herself as the anchor to the grand Seal that shields mankind from the Darkness
It's simply been too long, and my Mistress strength weakens as we speak Cheep
My power is waning
I once used this power to maintain the Balance by banishing vile Demons into darkness.
As my power diminishes, a gap is created. It widens as the Balance between Light and Darkness wavers. Through this gap, Demons enter and mount their assault upon this world--this world crafted of the Light. I beseech you! Use the Resonance between you and the one known as Takuya Hijou to Awaken your Power

And with this Resonance,
send those beasts back into the
Darkness from whence they came!
It is the only way to reclaim
the balance!

Such is your
Divine Mission!

WAS...WAS THAT TEOS...?

Are you even listening?! Chirp-chirp!!

.....

ALL YOU'RE DOING IS STUFFING YOUR FACE!

THE ONLY REDEEMING THING ABOUT YOU IS THAT BODY OF YOURS!

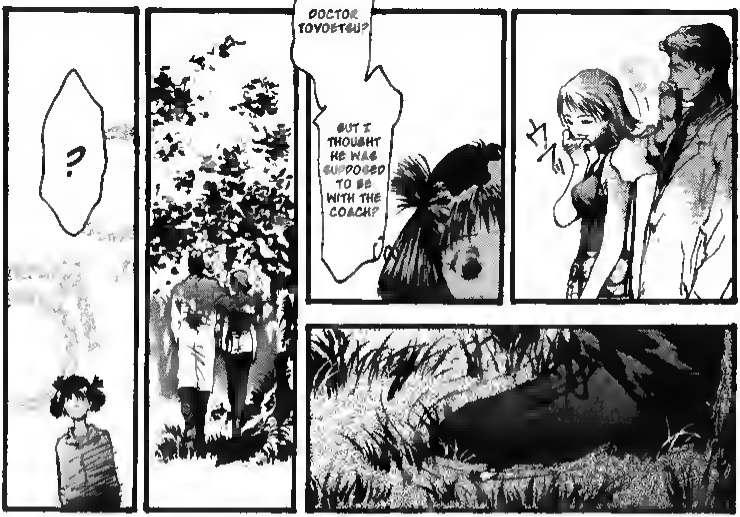
OH MY GOSH! MY BODY "BLUSH" YOU SAW ME WITHOUT ANY CLOTHES ON.

I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR STAMINA, DAMMIT!

OH YEAH?! AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? HUH, INSTRUMENT BOY? "OOOH! EVERYBODY LOOKIT ME! I DON'T EVEN NEED A REAL FLUTE BECAUSE I'M GOOD AT DIALING A CELL PHONE! I'M A BUTTON PRESSING STUD!"

IF YOU THINK IT'S SO EASY, WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT? I'LL SWITCH PLACES WITH YOU ANY TIME!

!?


?
DOCTOR TOYOSETSU?
BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WITH THE COACH?

...and breaks through to our world It'll be like an invasion
Never mind The way things are going, it could be any day now that the Suspicion breaks through the Seal...

So it's absolutely imperative that you and Takuya find the "Divine Treasures" as soon as possible.

So that we can revive Reverie! Chirp-chirp!

NO THANKS!
W-What?
But the battles already started! Cheap! You can't step out of it now
I JUST...
I JUST WANTED TO SAVE ICHIGO.

YEAH, RIGHT I JUST DON'T CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
BESIDES, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
ME? AS SOME INSTRUMENTAL COMPONENT IN SOME GODDESS' ANCIENT PLAN FOR BALANCE? A SKATER THAT SPINS ON HER BUTT HAS TO HELP KEEP THE BALANCE?
?!

LOOK!

THIS IS MY EMBLEM OF LIGHT!
AND IT CAN ONLY BE WHOLE WHEN THE TWO OF US ARE TOGETHER!
DON'T YOU GET IT? WE'RE THE ONLY ONES IN THIS WORLD THAT CAN DO THIS!

W-What's going on?!

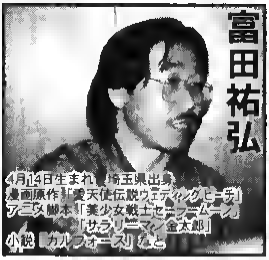
BABY BIRTH 1 END

THE SECRETS BEHIND THE BIRTH OF BABY BIRTH ARE NOW FINALLY REVEALED!

巻末特別座談会

BABY BIRTH

BABY BIRTH誕生秘話が今、ここに明かされる!!



Sukehiro Tomita:
Born April 14th, Saitama Prefecture

Representative Works:
Original Manga. *Legend of the Love Angel, Wedding Peach*
Anime Scripts: *Beautiful Warrior Sailor Moon and Salary Man*
Kentaro Novels. *Gal Force*

Haruhiko Mikimoto:
Born August. 28th. Tokyo

Representative Works
Character design: *Super Dimensional Fortress Macross* and *Aim for the Top!*
Manga Work. *Macross 7 Trash*

END OF BOOK SPECIAL—ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Ed: With Volume 1 of *Baby Birth* about to hit the bookstores, I was hoping to get your thoughts on the release.

Miki: Wow, I can barely remember when we first started this series.

Ed: I believe it made its first appearance in Vol. 2 of the first-year run of the serial comic, *MAGAZINE Z.*

Miki: I mean before that, before *MAGAZINE Z* even came out—when we were first approached by the president of *Big West* to do this story. Any idea when that might have been?

Ed: Over 2 years ago, at least.

Miki: Back then... Hmm, not sure if I can really say this, but was that anime still running? The one that became the basis of--this story? It was called *Gandara.*

Ed: Oh no. That was about when the first LDs for the series were just coming out. I believe that's when, Mikimoto-sensei, you were first approached to do the manga...

Tomi: Oh yes, now I remember. The whole thing that kicked off the *Baby Birth* idea was that show Gandara. I think I was actually asked—way before the show began—to help write up the business proposal for the whole show.

Miki: Yes, I believe you had done quite a bit of work on that project in it's early stage, didn't you?

Tomi: That's right. Unfortunately, our views on how everything was supposed to play out didn't quite mesh, so... just about when I was wondering about what happened to those talks, I heard the news that they had decided to go with Ashi Productions.

Ed: I see, so that's what happened. And Mikimoto-san, you were asked to work on the original character designs, correct?

Miki: The way I got involved with this project is a little odd, too. A bit after they came to Tomita-san for the proposal docs, the same president asked me if I might be interested in working on the project as well. At that time, I was quite busy—actually, overwhelmed with other projects—so honestly, when I told him I would certainly think about it, I did, but really not that much. To make a long story short, Ashi Productions basically took things from there, and that's how that ended. And I couldn't say much about it, as I really didn't have the time to devote, so when they came to me again asking if I'd like to come back to the project, then it was really more like, "Please let me do this," you know? But... things had developed quite a bit at Ashi Productions by then and so I just sort of let what was flowing flow. In the end it was more like, okay, let's put your name on this anyway, and if you look at the design, you can see quite clearly that there's not a lot of my style in it at all.

Ed: Ah yes, that was the case with the character design, wasn't it?

Miki: Anyhow, so that same president then asked me about doing a manga. At first I said, "I'm not a real manga guy. ..how about I do illustrations instead?" That's how I got started on this project.

(Both slightly laugh.)

Ed: You were doing *Macross 7 Trash* at the time, and I know we pushed you to do both. And I believe then we mentioned something about how much easier it was if there was already an existing story and all you had to do was draw the manga.

Miki: Well, yes and no. It's not really the workload for me, but more that I really like to draw,

and I'm not so good with stories, which was very much so apparent to me when I was drawing and writing *Macross 7 Trash*. If it was just a miniseries or a one-shot deal, then I wouldn't mind--so much if I could add my own touch and flair to it but, since it was a full-fledged series, I just didn't have the confidence to keep up with the story on that, and preferred to have someone else working specifically on that part. I really pushed that and the president basically said, all right, we'll give you someone good to work with...

Ed: And that's where Tomita-san came in, yes?

Tomi: So one day I get a phone call from *Mr.* H from Big West saying, "I've got a proposition for you..."

On Partnerships and On Receiving the First Original Works!

Ed: And that became the first time the two of you ever worked together like that?

Both: Yes, that's right.

Ed: What was the first major anime that you two worked on together?

Both: That would be *Macross*.

Tomi: Actually, *Macross* and *Macross 7*...

Miki: *Macross 7* and *Orguss*, I believe?

Tomi: I did work on *Orguss*, but I was on rotation with another fellow for that project.

Miki: You did the movie too, didn't you? And *Macross 2*, as well?

Tomi: The movie version of *Do You Remember Love?* Now that was an exciting project to work on. As for *Macross 2*, I also did the novel from Shogakukan. That cover illustration you did for the book... it's one of my favorites... but to work together this closely, is definitely a first.

Miki: We've worked together before, yes, but never this directly, for sure. Really, it's hard to say that it was ever this way during the anime. Those are just too big.

Tomi: We were in different sections too, so it was quite rare that I'd see him around. We had interaction, of course, mostly while working with director Kawamori.

Miki: But then it would be through Kawamori-san or whoever else was directing.

Tomi: You might not believe it, but there really aren't a lot of interaction opportunities between scenario writers and character designers.

Ed: Mostly when you first set up the project and then once again when it's over?

Miki: Yes, those one when everybody gets together, or during one of the project meetings. But that's basically it.

Ed: You've done quite a number of original stories for manga haven't you, Tomita-san?

Miki: In contrast to him, this was my very first one.

Freedom to Draw What I Want to Draw

Ed: Is the way you envision scenes different writing the script for an anime versus writing the story for a manga?

Tomi: Oh, definitely. With anime, you have to think in terms of one frame and you're quite limited. Whereas with manga, you have a blank page which you can just break up any which way you like, or just BAM, put in the next revelation just like that. However, for all the freedom you have, you do have to think a lot more with the manga.

Ed: Ever had to just tell Mikimoto-san to "make this part a little bigger" or to "read between the lines" with your writing?

Tomi: All I really wanted was to be able to hand a story to Mikimoto-san that would really leave an impression on him.

Miki: Honestly, I'm so deathly afraid of manga that everything he said really helped.

Ed: Have you ever done a storyboard for an anime, Mikimoto-sensei?

Miki: Oh, never at all. I've really only ever drawn real, honest to god illustrations, no breaks or lines or anything, so…in regards to manga…I really, really have a lot of things I don't know about and don't understand yet. And with anime… there's just so much movement, and given my style, I'm not that big of a movement fan. Not that I dislike it, but just that I was never very good at it, so for me, I really like drawing illustrations without any movement at all, just one after the other, but really putting my all into those stills, you know? To be honest, I used to ask a lot of people who were really good with the movement and action portions for their help. It's just recently that I started to do manga in addition to my normal illustration work, so I sort of like using that "part time" manga excuse about my work. I'm about as amateur as you can get when it comes to manga. You know that proverbial phrase "Reader Service"… when they ask me to do that, it's like, I really don't have any idea where to even start to provide joy to the reader, so I just end up drawing what I want to draw instead! So in that aspect especially, I definitely see myself as an amateur to the manga world. You know, they say just draw this and that so it leads into… something just slightly naughty? I just don't know how. Just can't, you know?

Tomi: But on the other hand, your way is good because you really don't waste any frames. In

some manga, just leave frames empty or decide they don't care about that frame and keep on drawing, but with Mikimoto-san, he puts his all into each and every one of these frames—so they could easily be stand alone illustrations, as well

Miki: But I really believe in having transitions, you know? You really can't do anything without those. At times, when I'm looking at my work, I'll decide there's not enough transitions! And it's not just me, it's my assistants that say this as well. You know how you have those money-shot pages or frames that are just... absolutely annoying to draw? Well, in order to give those frames impact, if you don't have the right lulls or build-up then... it just doesn't pack a punch, you know? And I know this in my head but sometimes... I just can't get it right...

Expectations for Hizuru and Co.!

Ed: Was it very hard to come up with Hizuru's design?

Miki: Actually, it really wasn't... lessee... when was it? Must have been quite a few years back now, but... sheesh... anyhow, I had always had this image of a girl, this character with these ponytaily things on her head, and this just seemed like the perfect time to bring her out. Goodness, her design's probably 14-15 years old

Ed: You were sitting on that one for quite a long time, weren't you? I suppose you were just looking for that right project to unveil her, yes? Then how about this question—out of all the characters, was there just one that was the easiest for you to "move"?

Miki: For me? Hmmm, it's not that he's easy to move, but I really have a lot of fun drawing Takuya. Especially that omnipotent/ omniscient attitude of his. He was just asking to be a "bad guy"

Ed: He's rich... snobby...

Miki: Yep. I really did want to corrupt him, but then I decided that there should be something just a bit off about him, and have that "something" be the one thing that changes him from a potentially hated character into a forgivable, likable one.

Ed: And what about you, Tomita-san? Any thoughts on the characters?

Tomi: When I first saw Takuya's design, I thought, "Oh, one of THOSE characters, huh?" But then during the drafting process, Mikimoto-san just throws in those, "I'm a genius" moments, and all a sudden, I fully understood the real "personality" behind Takuya. As for Hizuru, a bit more fine-tuning should bring out all the wonderful things about her

Ed: We've got quite a lot more to talk about, but that's to be continued in Volume 2. So... until then, good luck on your work. Can't wait to see what unfolds.

Both: We'll give it our best!